



MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

April-June, 2009, Vol. 19 No. 2

Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Oak (mixed species)	\$165	\$65	\$140	\$185	\$125	3,173 Int. - MBF	7*
Red oak (group)	\$165	\$105	\$150	\$135	\$135	1,586 Int. - MBF	6*
S Yellow Pine	\$75	\$70	\$75	\$80	\$80	14 Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	\$175	\$160	\$160	\$125	\$85	150 Int. - MBF	4
Stave Logs							
White oak (group)	\$420	\$420	\$420	\$295	\$150	1 Int. - MBF	1

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Oak (mixed species)	\$165	\$65	\$145	\$120	-	921 Int. - MBF	3
S Yellow Pine	\$75	\$70	\$75	-	-	14 Int. - MBF	2
Stave Logs							
White oak (group)	\$420	\$420	\$420	-	-	1 Int. - MBF	1

Southwest Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Oak (mixed species)	\$165	\$150	\$150	\$130	-	1,105 Int. - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	\$165	\$165	\$165	\$135	-	6 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	\$175	\$175	\$175	-	-	5 Int. - MBF	1

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Oak (mixed species)	\$125	\$90	\$120	\$215	\$130	1,147 Int. - MBF	2*
Red oak (group)	\$160	\$105	\$150	\$135	\$175	1,580 Int. - MBF	5*
White oak (group)	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$115	\$165	146 Int. - MBF	3

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed “# of Rpts.” to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. (“# of Rpts.” refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Please see the map on page 7 for a definition of reporting regions.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 14 timber sales containing 5,247 MBF located throughout the state. * **Note that several of these sales were salvage sales from the May 8th storm.**

Editor’s Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: www.missouriforesters.com or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website <http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/> and clicking on the “Conservation Assistance Contractors” link.

Tom Treiman and John Tuttle, Editors

Note: A “sale” often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the “# of Rpts.” (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

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News from Missouri

This past quarter has been full of challenges for forest land-owners and the forest products industry. The major challenge has been the economy and the ability to sell trees for a respectable price. Another issue was a storm event on May 8, 2009 that blew down many acres of trees in southern Missouri.

The economy has really been hurting the forest products industry. I have talked to several sawmills that have either laid off employees or simply shut the mill down for period of time. I estimate that the industry has slowed by at least 30% from last year's outputs. Several mill owners told me they were selling their number 2 and 3 common lumber for below cost. These mills also mentioned that the only good markets were railroad ties and white oak staves.

On May 8, 2009 a wind storm event that started in Kansas really caused havoc in southern Missouri. This storm spawned tornadoes, thunderstorms and extreme straight lined winds (90 mph) over a large area. The Missouri Department of Conservation estimates the damage at 204 million board feet on 113,000 acres. The three heaviest damaged counties are Reynolds (28,351 acres), Madison (17,854 acres), and Shannon (10,944 acres). Private forest landowners' forest damage is estimated at 68,102 acres, and public forest lands estimated at 45,203 acres.

The storm event has started a large effort to salvage wind thrown trees. Landowners and loggers are working together to

cut trees that were uprooted and broken. The Missouri Department of Conservation in the affected area has temporarily put on hold its normal forest management activities and begun focusing on salvaging wind thrown trees. Several salvage sales have already been let out for contract. These sales are focusing first on areas that need to be cleaned up for public use and fire prevention.

One common question that I have been hearing from land-owners is "*why am I getting such a low bid on my wind thrown trees?*" The short answer is that a logger's production goes down by about 30% due to the dangerous and dirty tree cutting conditions. Most of the trees have tipped over and the lower stem is in contact with the ground which causes loggers to cut the tree off higher from the root ball than normal – this cut usually dulls the saw almost every time it is made. Another hazard is trees are under pressure and can injure the log cutter when the top is cut.

My experience with cutting wind damaged trees wasn't enjoyable. I went as far as to threaten to quit my job if my dad ever decided to purchase another timber sale of wind thrown trees!

If you have any questions concerning the forest products industry you can give me a call. John Tuttle (573) 522-4115 ext 3304.

Market Indicators

Economic conditions such as lower manufacturing activity and higher unemployment have tarnished hope that building construction would revive quickly

from its three year recession. The global breadth of the current downturn has reduced expectations for improved international trade and investments as well. Even lower energy prices have lost their "silver lining" status as oil, gasoline and diesel prices began to creep upwards at the end of the quarter.

According to *TimberMart South*, lumber prices, which some thought could go no lower, have gone lower. Panel prices were relatively flat, near historically low levels. Curtailments and shut downs abounded in building products. In addition, this quarter showed the effects of stresses at work on pulp and paper manufacturers that led to dramatic production cuts the middle of last quarter. Curtailments and shut downs now abound in pulp and paper products as well.

Sawtimber markets are so bad that this quarter's delivered prices look like last year's stumpage prices.

Source: TimberMart South

Drought Stress in Trees

Drought and high temperatures are a one-two punch to trees. Trees exhale moisture from their leaves in a process called transpiration. As temperatures climb, transpiration kicks into overdrive. During a drought, there isn't enough water in the soil to replenish the water lost. When this happens, trees adopt survival strategies that can stress and weaken them.

If Mother Nature doesn't provide at least an inch or two of rain each month, you can help your trees by watering. While

frequent, light watering is sufficient for lawns and vegetable gardens, trees aren't carrots and their moisture needs are different.

Trees need a slow, thorough soaking at least once a month. Most water is absorbed by roots in the top 6-12 inches of soil. These water-gathering roots extend outward from the trunk in all directions at relatively the same distance as twice the height of the tree. However, you can concentrate your watering from the trunk out to the tips of the tree's branches. This critical piece of real estate is called the *dripline*.



There are several methods you can use to give your tree a drink.

One is to turn your garden hose on a slow trickle and leave it in different zones within the dripline until each is soaked. Another method is to spiral a soaker hose out from the trunk. Maintain a 2-foot spacing between each successive coil, and be sure to extend the spiral out to the tips of the branches. To test if enough water is reaching the roots, push a piece of re-bar down into the soil. If you can penetrate 6-12 inches, you've probably provided adequate water.

Some trees need a little more TLC during a drought. Keep a close eye on drought-sensitive species such as magnolias, Japanese maples, dogwoods, beeches, tulip trees and birches. Also pay close attention to container plants and newly planted trees. Because they haven't had time to establish extensive root systems, they are more vulnerable to periods of high temperatures and low rainfall.

Last, don't forget to mulch. Mulch is any tree's best friend.

Besides minimizing evaporation of soil moisture and limiting rainwater runoff, mulch also protects the tree from mower and weed trimmer damage. Apply 2-4 inches of organic mulch around the root zone, taking care to keep it off the trunk.

With a slow, thorough soaking at least once a month and a little bit of mulch, the only worry you'll have with your trees is deciding which ones to tie your hammock under.

How healthy are your trees?

Missouri's trees and forests have always been important to us. Once covering 70 percent of our state, trees continue to provide us with countless public and private benefits.

Whether they provide your means of living, lend beauty to your place of recreation or forge the character of your neighborhood, trees cannot be taken for granted. Just like us, they are susceptible to factors of disease, pollution and age. To continue enjoying its many benefits, forest health must be promoted.

Keeping an eye on trees and forests is a task that cannot be met by a single agency or group. In Missouri, volunteers are always known to rise to a challenge, and this time, the challenge is trees. You are invited to participate in a valuable statewide volunteer forestry project.

The *Missouri Forestkeepers Network* is an opportunity for all Missourians – urban and rural – to get involved in understanding and gaining important information about the condition of trees and

forests. By joining the network, you play an essential role in the future of Missouri's trees and forests. Join us. Together, we can foster a state of forest health for generations to come. Here's how...

Forestkeepers is free to any interested citizen, family or group. It is your choice alone to determine your level of involvement.

For more information, contact:

Missouri Forestkeepers Network
Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
4207 Lindel Blvd. Suite 300
Saint Louis, MO 63108

Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.



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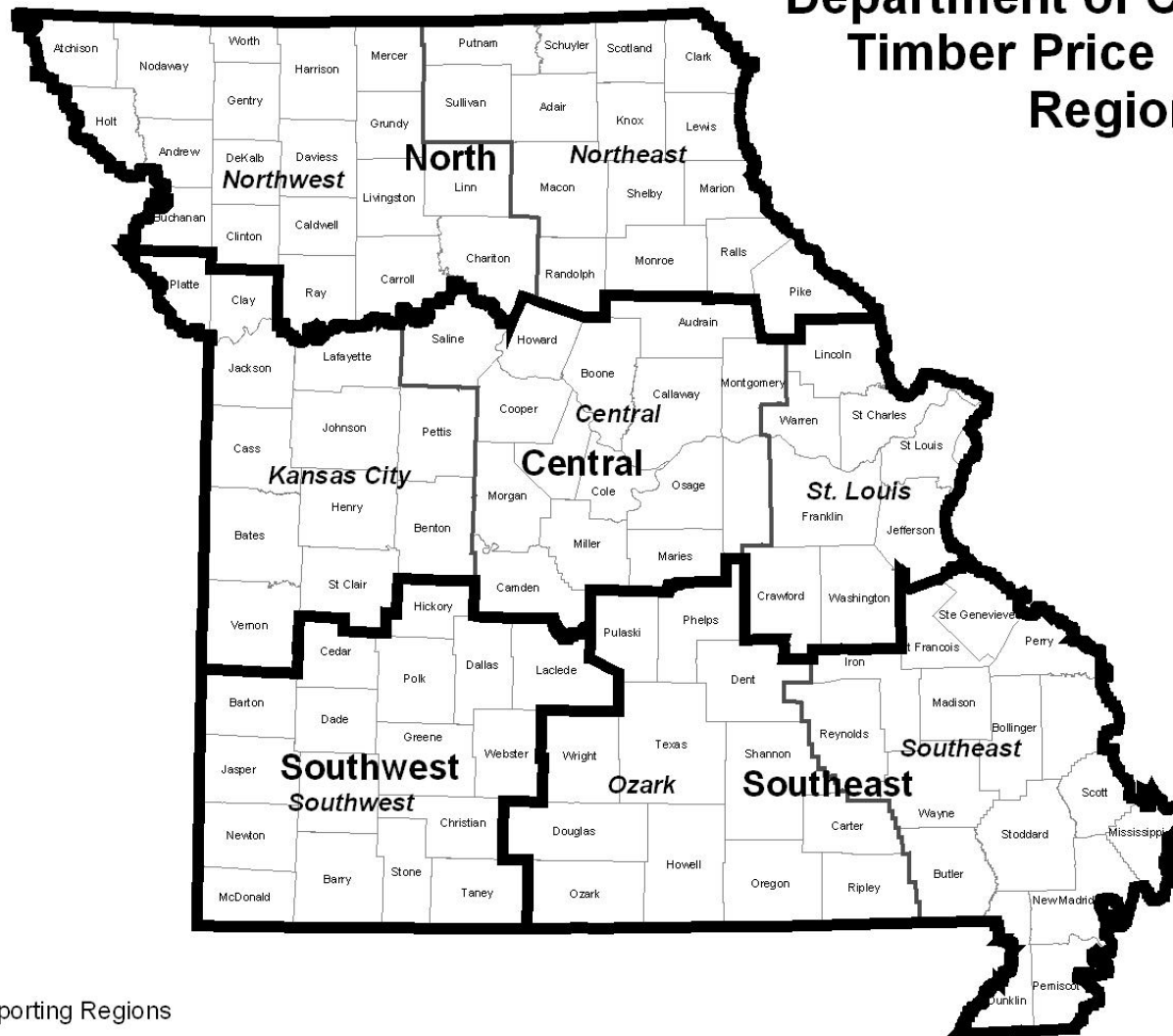
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Missouri Department of Conservation Timber Price Reporting Regions



Legend

-  Price Reporting Regions
-  MDC Regions
-  County Boundaries



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Return Service Requested